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Fox's "Glee" Portrays Homosexuality Honestly

Hit show "Glee" does away with stereotypes of homosexuals

By Ryan O'Callaghan
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When Ryan Murphy, co-creator of "Glee" pitched the idea for his new show to Fox, he called "Glee" a show about "why the arts matter, and why the arts can change your life."

Little did he know that concept would skyrocket into a global sensation.

"Glee" has been nominated for over one-hundred awards and has won over fifty, including four 2010 Emmy wins (out of nineteen nominations) and three 2011 Golden Globe wins.

Despite all of the accolades, what shocked the creators most was the outreach to the storyline surrounding the openly gay character, Kurt Hummel.

Some find his story to be the heart of the show, and in part make it responsible for the shows great success.

The performance got rookie actor Chris Colfer, who plays Kurt, his first Golden Globe win.

Colfer's addition to the cast made a great change in the original story.

When he first auditioned, Colfer tried out for the part of Artie, member of the glee club who uses a wheelchair. Ryan Murphy didn't see him for the

part, but he was too intrigued with him to just let him go.

Murphy scrapped the planned character Rajish and wrote in the new character Kurt Hummel.

"Glee" provides an honest portrayal of its gay characters. Though Kurt does fall into some of the stereotypes, his character avoids the cookie-cutter gay character that has popped in and out of TV shows for years.

Kurt learns from his time with the Glee Club, how to be himself and embrace being unique.

He comes out to his father who, unlike many past characters, accepts his son and does not hold a grudge.

Only a sophomore, Kurt ends up being openly gay in his Ohio high school. Although he gets bullied, he keeps his head up high.

Colfer's presence in "Glee" made other plot lines possible, like the addition of the characters Dave Karofsky and Blaine Anderson to the cast.

When he wrote the episode "Wheels," Ryan Murphy used a story from Colfer's time in high school.

He had told Murphy that his high school choir teacher wouldn't allow him to sing "Defying Gravity" because it was a "girl's song."

Murphy worked the story into the script, giving Colfer the opportunity to sing the song that he was denied and sing it for millions of viewers.

Dave Karofsky, played by



photo provided by gleehab.com

Dave Karofsky (Max Adler) bullies Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) in a dramatic episode of Fox's "Glee"

Max Adler, bullies Kurt to the point of harassment. The football player picks on everyone in the Glee Club, throwing slushies at them.

Karofsky picks on Kurt because of Kurt's sexuality. However, when Kurt stands up to his bully, he finds out the real reason behind Karofsky's bullying. He kisses Kurt and storms off. He later threatens to kill Kurt if he tells anyone about what happened.

Adler's character is a sad truth. (Many people struggle to understand who they are, and

sometimes in the mix of things, they hurt themselves and/or others.)

But the character also shows that not all gay people are the same cliché, as does the newest addition to the cast Blaine Anderson.

Played by Darren Criss, Blaine acts as a mentor to Kurt. After being threatened by Karofsky, Kurt transfers to Blaine's school, with its strictly enforced "no bullying policy." He motivates Kurt to stand up for and embrace himself.

These characters paint a positive picture of gay characters. In light of the suicides from gay bullying, it's good for kids to see that they aren't alone.

The truth is, there are gay people who are accepted by their families and peers. There are also those who are scared to embrace who they really are.

These people exist, but they have not existed on television, at least not for a long time. "Glee" embraces these people.

You can catch "Glee" on Tuesdays at 8 P.M. on Fox